

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05
/089 W

-----091827Z 098911 /42

R 091731Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8116
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08003

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW
SUBJECT: MBFR: OPPOSITION CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR
ALLIANCE POSITION

1. DR. ALOIS MERTES, ONE OF THE FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMEN
FOR THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE
BUNDESTAG DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE
REAFFIRMED THE CDU/CSU'S SUPPORT FOR THE ALLIANCE MBFR
POSITION IN A STATEMENT CARRIED BY THE MAY 9 "DIE WELT."

2. THE MERTES STATEMENT WAS IN RESPONSE TO AN APRIL 13

ARTICLE BY SPD SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PAWELCZYK (FBIS
131135Z APR 77) WHICH APPEARED IN THE APRIL 13 EDITION
OF "DIE WELT." MERTES CHARGED THAT PAWELCZYK'S COMMENTS
HAD BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST THE WESTERN MBFR POSITION
RATHER THAN THE CDU/CSU. HE SAID PAWELCZYK'S THESIS
THAT A "POLITICAL NEGOTIATION" MUST REPLACE THE EXPERT
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TALKS IN VIENNA WAS "ABSURD." MERTES ARGUED THAT BOTH
KEY ELEMENTS OF THE NATO POSITION -- PARITY AND
COLLECTIVITY -- WERE IN FACT POLITICAL POSITIONS AGREED
UPON AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. MERTES ALSO ATTACKED PREVIOUS
STATEMENTS BY SPD CHAIRMAN BRANDT AND SPD PARLIAMENTARY
GROUP LEADER WEHNER ON MBFR. HE SAID THEIR STATEMENTS
CAST DOUBT UPON THE RELIABILITY OF GERMAN FOREIGN

POLICY AND CAUSED DISSENTION IN THE BUNDESTAG WHERE THERE HAD BEEN AN ALL-PARTY CONSENSUS ON MBFR UNTIL THE FALL OF 1976.

3. MERTES ARGUED THAT POLITICAL PRINCIPLES MUST BE CLARIFIED FIRST BEFORE THERE COULD BE AN AGREEMENT. HE CONTINUED THAT THIS WAS IN CONTRAST TO PAWELCZYK, WHO THOUGHT THE TIME WAS RIGHT FOR A FIRST REDUCTION AGREEMENT. MERTES WROTE THAT THE OPPOSITION WANTED TOUGH, CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS, WITH NO DISARMAMENT ILLUSIONS. HE REITERATED CDU/CSU SUPPORT FOR THE PARITY AND COLLECTIVITY PRINCIPLES, CONCLUDING WITH AN OPPOSITION PLEA FOR "CLARITY, FIRMNESS AND PATIENCE" IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS.

4. MERTES INVITED AN EMBOFF TO HIS OFFICE ON MAY 6 TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF A PARTICULAR PARAGRAPH IN HIS STATEMENT AND TO POINT OUT THAT THE STATEMENT HAD BEEN CLEARED NOT ONLY BY THE CDU/CSU LEADERSHIP BUT ALSO REPRESENTED THE VIEW OF THE ENTIRE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP. HE WARNED THAT CDU/CSU SUPPORT FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS COULD DETERIORATE IF MBFR BECAME A NEGOTIATION ABOUT THE BUNDESWEHR. THE PARAGRAPH TO WHICH MERTES REFERRED READS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE CDU/CSU EMPHATICALLY APPROVES THE GOAL OF BALANCED ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST WITH A REALISTIC PRESERVATION OF WESTERN STANDARDS FOR DETENTE AND SECURITY; WEST AND EAST FILL BOTH CONCEPTS
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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05

/089 W

-----091826Z 098932 /42

R 091731Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8117

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR HAPE

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 08003

WITH DIFFERENT, PARTIALLY CONFLICTING CONTENTS. THE UNION, AFTER ASSESSING FRENCH ARGUMENTS AGAINST MBFR, HAS AGREED TO THE HIGHLY PROBLEMATICAL IDEA OF AN AGREED REDUCTION AREA; BUT UNDER THE CONDITION THAT THE SOVIET SUPERIORITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE WOULD NOT BE AUTHORIZED BY TREATY BUT RATHER THAT WEST-EAST PARITY BE ESTABLISHED; THAT THE WEST NEITHER DIRECTLY NOR INDIRECTLY -- ALSO NOT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE DATA DISCUSSION -- INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EAST ABOUT THE BUNDESWEHR, BUT RATHER REJECT ANY SOVIET OVERSIGHT OF THE WESTERN DEFENSE STRUCTURE."

5. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT MERTES' WARNING ABOUT POSSIBLE EROSION OF CDU/CSU SUPPORT FOR THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD THE BUNDESWEHR BECOME THE FOCAL POINT IS A SERIOUS ONE. WHILE MERTES DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION OPPOSITION RELUCTANCE TOWARD THE SECRET

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TABLING OF NATIONAL SUB-TOTALS, WE ASSUME HE IS AWARE OF ALLIED PRESSURE ON THE FRG FOR SUCH TABLING (E.G., MERTES CALLED RUECKRIEGEL TO DISCUSS MBFR ON MAY 4 WHILE AN EMBOFF HAPPENED TO BE IN THE LATTER'S OFFICE) AND PROBABLY SUPPORTS THE GENSCHER/RUTH LINE THAT THE STEP WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS ON THE SIZE OF THE BUNDESWEHR.

WE SUSPECT THAT GENSCHER WOULD BE MOST RELUCTANT TO ALIENATE THE CDU/CSU ON THE MBFR ISSUE ON WHICH HE HAS THUS FAR RECEIVED STEADFAST SUPPORT. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE NOW IN VIEW OF THE BRANDT/WEHNER/PAWELCZYK LINE THAT A FIRST REDUCTION AGREEMENT IS PRACTICALLY AT HAND. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE CDU/CSU STATEMENT WILL REINFORCE GENSCHER'S PERSONAL PREDILECTION FOR CONTINUING THE DATA DISCUSSION WITHOUT

OFFICIALLY LAYING BUNDESWEHR FIGURES ON THE TABLE. END
COMMENT.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISARMAMENT, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, OPPOSITION PARTIES, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN08003
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770162-1202
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770580/aaaacrbt.tel
Line Count: 173
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2603586
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: OPPOSITION CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR ALLIANCE POSITION
TAGS: PARM, GE, NATO, MBFR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fa904698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009